

In Sports: Southwood prepares for a boys basketball semi-state bout with Kouts. Page A11

Wabash Plain Dealer

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WEEKEND EDITION MARCH 20-21, 2021

Sunday's weather 62 | 37



Seeking sports stringers

Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming spring sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for noon Wednesday, April 14 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 24 and Wednesday, April 28 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org/classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Wabash Art Guild Members' Art Show returns for 2021

The 61st annual Wabash Art Guild 2021 Members' Art Show will be on display from Wednesday, March 24 through Sunday, April 25 at the Clark Gallery at the Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. There will be free admission available for the Clark Gallery during these dates from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The group is also interested in inviting new members who would like to contribute their works. For more information, call 260-563-7690.

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Photos by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

This year's keynote speaker Dr. Kenneth Foster, a professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, asks the audience to raise their hands if they had attended Purdue University.

Saluting sustainability

Annual Salute to Ag dinner honors Shenefield family

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

As Grow Wabash County and the Salute to Ag committee honored the 2020 Farm Family of the Year on Wednesday, March 10 at the Heartland REMC building, the concept of sustainability kept coming up.

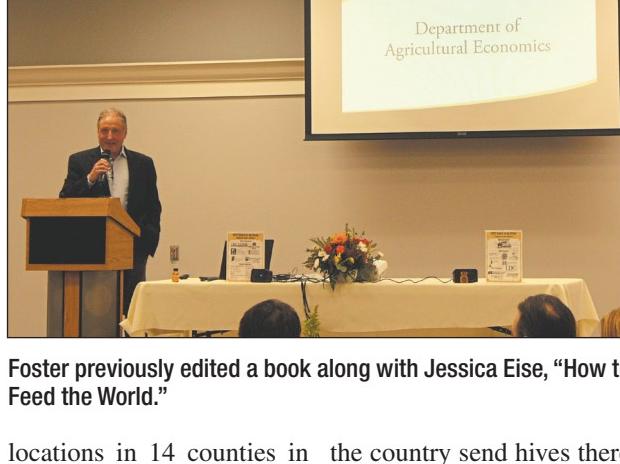
The annual Salute to Ag dinner honored this year's recipient, Clover Blossom Honey, which is owned and operated in LaFontaine by David Shenefield and his family.

Project manager for marketing and events Chelsea Boulrisse said they were being celebrated for their contributions to the Wabash County agriculture industry during Grow Wabash County's annual Salute to Ag Dinner on Wednesday, March 10.

Boulrisse said Dave Shenefield has also helped mentor young and novice beekeepers to get their apiaries started to keep the incredibly necessary art of beekeeping alive.

Before the dinner portion of the evening, emcee Howard Halderman said Shenefields are a third-generation farm family, which began operations in 1959.

Halderman said the Shenefields have beehives in 145



Foster previously edited a book along with Jessica Eise, "How to Feed the World."

locations in 14 counties in northern Indiana in the summertime.

Halderman said every late fall, their 2,000 hives leave the various locations around the state to head across the country for the largest pollination event in the world: the almond pollination in February in Central Valley of California.

Halderman said it was ironic that this was the top convergence of the year as that California does not "have a great bee population."

Yet, these important pollinators are a key factor in the continuance of this tradition.

"Beekeepers from all over

the country send hives there every winter," said Halderman.

This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Kenneth Foster, a professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, Foster who spoke about the importance of sustainability in agriculture.

Boulrisse said Foster is an avid beekeeper himself as well as a longtime friend of the Shenefield family.

Foster began his presentation by asking those in the audience to raise their hands if they had family members who currently attend Purdue University. Several hands went up. After that, he asked people to hold their hands up if they had attended Pur-

due University, even if they didn't graduate. Even more hands went up.

"That just about fills the room," he said, to laughter.

Foster said sustainability was "a big topic," which had been the topic of a book he had edited along with Jessica Eise, "How to Feed the World."

"There's a lot of noise, but very few of them speak from a perspective of expertise," said Foster.

Foster said the concept of trade-offs was "the challenge that we find in sustainability."

"How do we find the sweet trade-offs that give us more bang for the buck?" said Foster. "We're willing to give up one of these things to get a lot of another one."

Among other topics related to sustainability in agriculture, Foster discussed the possibilities of plant-based meat products in the future.

"The important thing for farmers is to watch these markets," said Foster. "Is there an opportunity for me in this? Is there a threat for me in this? And if there's an opportunity, how do I capitalize on this? And if there is a threat, how do I adapt?"

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Honeywell Pool will not be used for triathlon

Visit Wabash County informs Parks Board costs would be too high

By ROB BURGESS

Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Visit Wabash County will not be using the Mark C. Honeywell Pool to host part of the upcoming DAM(N)!MAN! extreme triathlon.

An emergency Wabash Park Board meeting which had originally been set for Wednesday to decide on the possibility of using the Honeywell Pool to host part of the event was canceled after Visit Wabash County decided the costs were too high.

On Wednesday, Parks superintendent Adam Hall said he had been informed by Visit Wabash County that they had decided to use the YMCA's pool for the event instead.

The discussion was prompted by Visit Wabash County creative lead Katie Jones, who addressed the board during last month's regular meeting about the upcoming extreme triathlon, DAM(N)!MAN!

Jones said like last year, DAM(N)!MAN! will take place on the same day as the Dam to Dam Wabash County Century Ride, which will be Sunday, Sept. 12.

See HONEYWELL, page A3

County remains in blue COVID advisory level

Number of those fully vaccinated locally reaching toward 5,000

By ROB BURGESS

Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Wabash County's positivity rating has been rising slightly, but the local COVID-19 advisory still remains in blue, the lowest level.

The Indiana State Department of Health's (ISDH) dashboard was updated at noon Wednesday, March 17 with results as of 11:59 p.m. Sunday, March 15.

Also at noon Wednesday, March 17, the ISDH's long-term care facilities dashboard was updated with information as of Wednesday, March 10.

During the latest update, no new cases or deaths among residents or staff in Wabash County long-term care facilities were reported for the first time in months.

As local cases remain relatively low to where they were just a few months ago, the number of those in Wabash County who have been fully or partially vaccinated continues to grow.

As of Friday, 4,763 people had been fully vaccinated in Wabash County, with 148 second doses having been administered locally on Thursday alone. Also as of Friday, 6,384 people locally had received at least their first dose, with 208 of those having been administered Thursday alone.

Statewide, as of Friday, a total of 2,304,727 doses have been administered in Indiana. This includes

Access Youth Center begins 'Nakota's Neighbors' project

Community Foundation memorial fund remembers fallen youth

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The community has already begun reaping the benefits of a fund that began late last year in remembrance of a fallen local child.

In December 2020, Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC) development associate Melissa Ford said they had established the Nakota Kelly Remembrance Fund.

In August 2020, Anthony Dibiah, 37 – the father of Nakota "Fergie" Kelly, 10, of Wabash – was charged with murdering his son in July.

The jury trial was recently rescheduled for 9 a.m. Feb. 1 in Marion Superior Court. But, that date will be postponed again as the Indiana Supreme Court late last year handed down an Order Suspending Jury Trials statewide until March 1, "citing the need for drastic measures as COVID-19 continues to surge," according to chief public information officer Kathryn Dolan.

The pretrial conference has now been rescheduled for 1 p.m. Wednes-

day, May 5, and the jury trial has been rescheduled for 9 a.m. Monday, May 17, both before Judge Shatrese M. Flowers.

Ford said the new non-permanent fund was founded by Stan and Kathy Leland, to provide "financial support to Wabash County agencies and programs that support Wabash County at-risk children and their families."

Earlier this month, Ford said one agency that had requested a grant from the Nakota Kelly Remembrance Fund was the Access Youth Center (AYC), which serves Wabash County children and teens ages 8 to 18.

Ford said when children visit or participate in the AYC, "they are welcomed by caring and supportive adults who provide free snacks, engage them in activities and Bible study, and assist with homework."

"Nakota was an active part, along with his sister and mom, of the after-school programming at AYC," said AYC director Liz Hobbs. "It was easy to see that Nakota enjoyed having a choice among the variety of activities available at our location; some days he was all about playing pool and other afternoons he wanted to see how many of us he could beat in a 'Mario Kart' race. In that spirit, we want to provide



Provided photo
One part of "Nakota's Neighbors" programming is the Northside Grub'n Go snack program. Already, an average of 40 bags are distributed to youth every Thursday afternoon.

a safe space for students and eventually offer a variety of after-school activities on the northside, where Nakota lived."

See NAKOTA, page A2

See COVID, page A3



In December 2020, the Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC) established the Nakota Kelly Remembrance Fund.

NAKOTA

From page A1

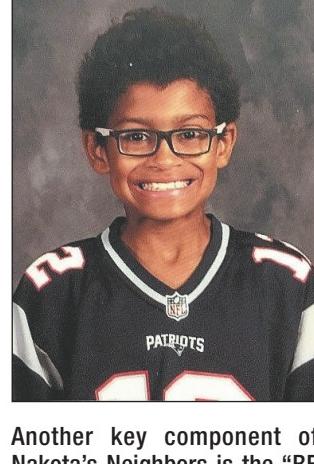
Ford said with this additional financial support from Nakota's Fund, AYC has been able to extend its reach to the north side by forming new partnerships with the Wabash Alliance Church and adjacent Meadowbrook neighborhood to serve more children in the community.

"Location was key," said Hobbs. "We wanted to provide programming near the Meadowbrook area and found that the folks at Wabash Alliance and the management at Meadowbrook were of like mind in that goal. We are incredibly thankful for the vision and leadership from all entities involved, including Nakota's Fund, to make this programming a reality."

Ford said to remember Kelly, the new AYC programming in the Meadowbrook area is called "Nakota's Neighbors," and is supported by Nakota's Fund, Parkview Wabash Hospital's Community Health Improvement Program, and the United Fund of Wabash County.

Ford said one part of "Nakota's Neighbors" programming is the Northside Grab'n'Go snack program. Already, an average of 40 bags are distributed to youth every Thursday afternoon.

Hobbs said the creation of this program on the north side "will enable AYC to



Another key component of Nakota's Neighbors is the "BE Team."

The program and its name are designed "to encourage youth to imagine and realize who they can be, not based upon what others perceive them to be."

build relationships with families in the area and will help establish the groundwork for future Family Day events."

Ford said another key component of Nakota's Neighbors is the "BE Team."

The program and its name are designed "to encourage youth to imagine and realize who they can be, not based upon what others perceive them to be."

"The BE Team is an opportunity for teens to gather in a group setting with a mentor for games, a meal, and Bible study," said Hobbs. "We also want community outreach and service to be a key part of the program so that the youth can grow and make

a difference in the lives of others."

Hobbs said earlier this month, the group packed 10 emergency kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), "and we are hoping to partake in community service activities off-site as well."

Ford said the BE Team and the expanded AYC programming "will make a positive difference in the lives of many youth and families, like Nakota's in Wabash County."

"Nakota is missed by the many individuals who were impacted by his spirit and joy; we are humbled to receive grants from the Community Foundation fund that carries his name and grateful for the opportunity to provide programming that honors his memory," said Hobbs.

Hobbs said the CFWC was "delighted to see the impact the Nakota Kelly Remembrance Fund is already having on youth and youth-serving organizations in Wabash County."

To donate to the fund, visit cfwabash.org or send a check made out to the Community Foundation with "Nakota Kelly Remembrance Fund" in the memo line, mailed to the Community Foundation at 105 W. Second St., Suite 100, North Manchester, IN 46962.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Saturday Sunny 56 / 33	 Sunday Sunny 62 / 37	 Monday Partly Cloudy 66 / 45	 Tuesday Chance T-storms 64 / 50	 Wednesday Scattered T-storms 63 / 45
Sun and Moon				
Today's sunset 7:55 p.m. Tomorrow's sunrise 7:44 a.m.				
 First 3/21	 Full 3/28	 Last 4/4	 New 4/11	
Detailed Local Outlook				
Today we will see sunny skies, high temperature of 56°, humidity of 38%. East wind 7 mph. Expect clear skies tonight, overnight low of 32°. East wind 7 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 30°. Sunday, skies will be sunny, high temperature of 62°, humidity of 38%. Southeast wind 6 to 9 mph.				

Second Harvest Food Bank CEO announces retirement

Tim Kean has led the organization for the past nine years

STAFF REPORT



KEAN

Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) of East Central has announced that President and CEO Tim Kean will retire effective at the end of the year in December of 2021, after leading the organization for the past nine years, according to marketing manager Kim Gillenwater.

"I consider it an honor and a privilege to have been part of this organization for the last 16 years," Kean said. "Second Harvest is well-positioned for a strong future. We are in sound fiscal condition and have a great team assembled to move this organization forward into the new decade and beyond. Our strengths have always been in our effective programmatic focus to positively impact all the communities we serve. New leadership will leverage new opportunities and forge new relationships that will continue to add to the solid foundation that has been built. I am extremely grateful to all of our team

members and the Board of Directors for my opportunity to serve in this important mission."

Under Kean's leadership, Second Harvest has launched several new initiatives and partnerships to complement the groups' core mission of addressing food insecurity. These include an extensive rebranding to better define and communicate the organizations' outreach, joining the National Diaper Bank Network to become a resource for families with young children, joining the Alliance for Period Supplies to help reduce educational barriers struggling families may face by providing access to period supplies for schools and families, a merger with Teamwork for Quality Living to address poverty alleviation, and creation of the Big Idea initiative to help foster relationship building between schools and parents.

Also, in 2020, during the pandemic, Kean successfully led Second Harvest to quickly adapt to address the

pandemic. SHFB was able to dramatically increase food distribution to serve the 8-county footprint of the organization, distributing over 14,800,000 pounds of food to individuals, families, seniors and children, the highest total ever in the 38-year history of SHFB.

"We would like to wish Tim continued success in his retirement and thank him for his tremendous service to the organization over the past 16 years. Second Harvest is solidly positioned both fiscally and programmatically to serve our communities. We are pleased that our growing impact & awareness are at an all-time high and our team is talented and engaged. Tim's influence and steady hand have positioned Second Harvest well for his successor and the communities we serve," said board chair Jack Basler.

Kean has been a longtime fixture in the Muncie and Anderson communities. Before joining Second Harvest in 2005, Kean was in the retail grocery business for 30

years with Pay Less Super Markets and Kroger where he served in several management positions.

SJ Henderson joins Manchester University as CARE director

She works closely with Hands of Hope in Wabash, among other groups

By ANNE GREGORY



come to after they have been violated, but a safe space for any student to come to as they continue a lifelong journey of getting to know their bodies and emotional architecture," she said.

Henderson recently graduated from the University of Georgia with a Master of Social Work and a Master of Public Health.

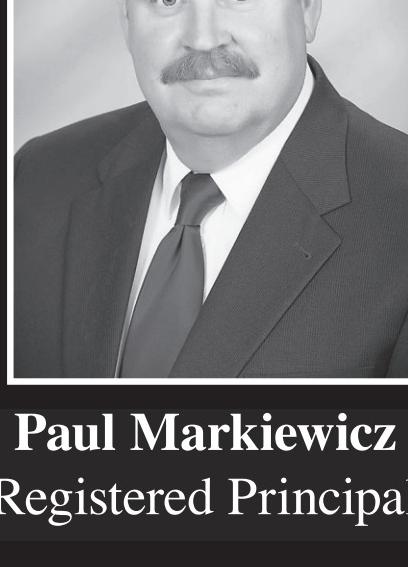
At Manchester, Henderson coordinates a community response team, develops educational programs for CARE, and develops training programs for University employees who might respond to a report.

Because Manchester has campuses in Fort Wayne and North Manchester, she also works closely with community resources, such as Hands of Hope in Wabash, the Fort Wayne Sexual Assault Center and the Fort Wayne Police Department Victim Assistance Program.

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

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Obituaries

Sharon McKinney

Services for Sharon McKinney are 2 p.m., Monday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Bender Chapel, North Manchester. Burial in Oaklawn Cemetery, North Manchester. Friends may call one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

HONEYWELL

From page A1

Jones said the extreme triathlon would include a 3.1-mile swim, a 150-mile bike ride that goes with Dam to Dam and a 30-mile run afterward.

Jones said for the swimming portion, they were requesting to use the Honeywell Pool. She said the athletes would arrive at the home base location at InGuard at 4:30 a.m. and then trolley-shuttled to the pool for a 5 a.m. start time. She said the swimmers would then have until 7 a.m. to shuttle back to InGuard.

Jones said they have slots for 25 people in the swimming portion of the extreme triathlon, some of which would individuals, while others would be a part of teams.

Jones said they wanted to use the Honeywell Pool instead of the pool at the YMCA because of the Olympic length and width.

During this month's regular meeting, Hall said the costs associated with keeping the pool open for an extra month beyond the traditional end of the season just for the event were estimated at around \$1,000.

However, the cost proved too high for Visit Wabash County.

"We respect the Park Board's decision to require a fee to use the pool to cover the operating expenses associated with keeping it open for an additional month just for our event," said Visit Wabash County executive director Christine Flohr. "They have a fiscal responsibility to the city when it comes to operating the facility. Unfortunately, that fee is too high for the event's budget."

On Wednesday, Hall said that since the triathlon would not be scheduled for the Honeywell Pool, that they would close at their traditional time in the season once again this year in August.

The Honeywell Pool is set to open in a few months according to its normal schedule after being closed last year.

In May 2020, the board decided by a 4 to 2 vote to close the pool for the 2020 season due to concerns over COVID-19.

But, during this month's regular board meeting, Hall said they were planning on moving forward as usual.

The next Parks Board regular monthly meeting is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 14.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Another day, with yet another funeral.

Catholics in Nigeria have buried many priests and believers killed in their country's brutal wars over land, cattle, honor and religion. But this was the first time Bishop Matthew Hassan

Kukah of the Sokoto Diocese had preached at the funeral of a seminarian.

A suspect in the crime said 18-year-old Michael Nnadi died urging his

attackers to repent and forsake their evil ways.

"We are being told that this situation has nothing to do with religion," said Kukah, in remarks distributed across Nigeria in 2020. "Really? ... Are we to believe that simply because Boko Haram kills Muslims, too, they wear no religious garb? Are we to deny the evidence before us, of kidnappers separating Muslims from infidels or compelling Christians to convert or die?"

The bishop was referring to fierce debates – in Nigeria and worldwide – about attacks by Muslim Fulani herders on Christian and Muslim farmers in northern and central Nigeria. The question is whether these gangs have been cooper-

ating with Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State.

The conflict has claimed Catholics, Anglicans, Pentecostal Christians and many others, including Muslims opposed to violence. Prominent Muslim leaders have condemned Boko Haram, and church leaders have condemned counterattacks by Christians. In recent years it has become next to impossible to keep track of the number of victims, including mass kidnappings of schoolchildren and the murders of clergy and laypeople, including beheadings.

"Religion is not the only driver of the mass atrocities," said Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom, in December testimony before members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"Not all 40 million members of the Fulani ethnic group in the region are Islamic extremists. How-

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"A mounting number of

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Opinion

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go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

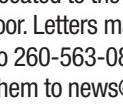
Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

— Romans 13:10

What Biden can do about the border crisis

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy took a break from reading Dr. Seuss to visit the U.S.-Mexico border Monday, but he was still speaking in the simplistic terms of children's literature. During an appearance with other lawmakers in El Paso, McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, attempted to brand the latest surge of migrants the "Biden border crisis."

McCarthy was right in one respect: The border is President Biden's problem now. His administration is struggling to handle the influx of migrants arriving there, particularly the children among them, as competently and humanely as it should. But the idea that Biden created or even exacerbated the problem is as fictitious as "Green Eggs and Ham."

Last month, the Biden administration reversed former President Donald Trump's policy of turning away unaccompanied children seeking asylum at the border, as migrants have a right to do under U.S. and international law. The reversal was legally and morally correct, and it should extend to adult asylum seekers. The administration is still following its predecessors' policy of expelling adult migrants ostensibly as a means of controlling the spread of the pandemic, a dubious pretext given that the United States has consistently

been one of the world's coronavirus hot spots.

Did Biden's policy shift bring about the latest wave of migrants, as McCarthy and company contend? It's certainly possible that it played a role. But the border has seen cyclical surges of unaccompanied minors since 2014, back when Biden was vice president. More than 40,000 have arrived every year since, and the number peaked at over 70,000 under the punitive and supposedly deterrent policies of the Trump administration.

The fact is that upheaval, violence, poverty and other hardships in Central America and Mexico drive northward migration regardless of U.S. policy changes, which are communicated to prospective immigrants in unpredictable ways by smugglers and other unreliable sources. Biden has rightly sought to target what drives migration through increased investment in the countries that are home to the migrants.

That is a long-term strategy that won't address the present influx, however. And finding a way to do that more effectively is urgent.

With thousands of children being held in inadequate, overwhelmed Border Patrol detention facilities longer than legally allowed, and thousands more in Department of Health and Human

Services shelters awaiting placement with sponsors, the administration deployed Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel last week to help manage the surge. Meanwhile, immigrant advocates held a rally Monday at Mountain View's Moffett Field, the former military base where federal officials are considering keeping children who can't be accommodated elsewhere.

Holding unaccompanied minors has to be distinguished from the notorious Trump administration policy that separated families, but it still results in the inherently harmful detention of children. The Biden administration must strive to keep such detentions as rare and as brief as possible.

Officials say they are doing so by easing the placement of young migrants with relatives and allowing them to apply for asylum in their home countries. Both steps required reversing some of the many Trump administration policies that blocked asylum seekers across the board instead of addressing systemic problems.

Lawmakers' refusal to undertake comprehensive reform also perpetuates long-standing failures. Unfortunately, McCarthy and company would rather be hammering it up.

This editorial was first published in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Two sides of the minimum wage

With a minimum wage increase once again prominently featuring a policy debate, it seems wise to treat the issue a bit differently. Instead of outlining the positive and negative effects of a particular increase of the minimum wage, I'll offer the best arguments for and against any minimum wage. In so doing I'll attempt an ideological Turing test, making the arguments so

clearly that a reader cannot discern my personal position. By explaining the best arguments on both sides, I hope to achieve two goals. The first is to make clear the need for compromise. The second is to maximize angry comments from readers. Wish me luck.

Michael Hicks

The best argument for a minimum wage involves several labor market failures that affect low-wage workers. It begins with the fact that most low-wage workers are in a poor position to negotiate wages. They may be young, inexperienced, poorly educated or speak little English. Employers have enormous bargaining power over them in ways they do not with better-skilled, better-educated, more mature workers.

At the same time, labor markets have become increasingly concentrated, thus employers are more able to exert market power over workers. Information technology, such as online help wanted ads, permits employers to engage in tacit collusion in setting salaries for low wage workers. Likewise, human resource professionals in many cities and industries meet frequently to discuss wage and benefits standards. While this is so plainly illegal that the U.S. DOJ issued a recent warning to HR professionals, state-level anti-trust enforcement is sadly almost non-existent.

At the same time, the social safety net provides many health, food and social benefits to low-wage workers. In a perfectly free labor market, workers would require extra pay to support their families and would demand higher wages. In that way, taxpayers subsidize low-wage workers in ways that benefit employers and those who buy their goods or services. For all these reasons, we should have a minimum wage in order to protect workers and taxpayers from the existing labor market's failures.

The best argument in opposition to a minimum wage is that government should not, and cannot, be in the wage- or price-setting business. Government has no role in a great many high-stakes personal decisions. Government cannot tell us what language to speak, what church to attend, who to marry or with whom to form a family.

No government may tell us adults how much alcohol we may consume, whether or not we can smoke tobacco, nor increasingly whether or not we may freely purchase cannabis or other drugs. Government cannot tell us whether or not we may own a gun or what type of house, automobile or boat we may own. Government isn't permitted to do these things because free people won't allow government to do these things.

There is also a simple competence issue. Our

federal government spent more than \$100 million each for an F-35A fighter, paid for most of Boston's Big Dig debacle and wholly funded a bridge to nowhere in Alaska. Given these enormous limitations in knowledge, no government can reasonably tell an ice cream shop owner in Loogootee what she should pay a high school student or tell the high school student how little he should be willing to work for. The mere existence of a minimum wage infantilizes Americans, while depriving them of an essential freedom of free exchange.

There are other respectable arguments for and against a minimum wage, as well as many poor ones. Still, I hope I have done a fair job outlining these two viewpoints, which I consider the best for and against a minimum wage. If I have done so, and you, dear reader, are honest with yourself, you must admit that both the argument for and against hold a great deal of truth. I would go so far as to say that both arguments are essentially true.

The policy environment facing functioning democracies is almost always like the minimum wage debate. Both sides offer argument possessed of both supportive facts and truth. Yet, entirely reasonable, educated and well-meaning people still disagree. It is a hallmark of a liberal democracy that our policy debates are dominated by matters in which compromise is not just possible, but necessary. That is largely because we've solved most of those problems where compromise is not possible. So, give thanks for this type of political disagreement; it marks us as an advanced, functioning democracy.

Those nations that lack a well-functioning democracy have fewer debates that lead to compromise. In those unhappy places, simple facts are often in dispute, and the most mundane of policy matters marked with cultural or national consequence. Citizens outside of democracy often view compromise as losing, as a lack of patriotism or as caving to the enemy. We must not admire the politics of these sad, insecure and failing places.

Our circumstance is to be envied. Our Constitution, our norms and our culture permit us to debate matters with respect and understanding. So, within a liberal democracy, we do not have enemies over public policy. Our only domestic enemies are those who seek to undermine those bonds, break our Constitutional norms or exclude some of us from deliberation.

As Congress commences a debate on increasing the minimum wage, we should view this as a crucial moment for our Republic. We have just passed through the most significant assault on our Constitution since the Civil War. Our ability to overcome that and prevent it in the future depends in part on how effectively we compromise over legislation. We should view the minimum wage as a good place to start.

Michael Hicks may be reached by email at cberdirector@bsu.edu.



Spring is here and so is baseball

By MARK FRANKE

I watched my first baseball spring training game last Sunday and was immediately transported back into the mists of memory, that of a young boy at the first sign of spring heading outside with his glove, baseball and pitchback contraption.

First, a word about that pitchback. It was a metal frame with netting strung across it and a strike-zone target. An aspiring pitcher, I would deliver a repertoire of pitches at the target and the netting would rebound the ball back into the pitcher's glove. That was the theory but it required that the pitch actually find the target and be thrown with enough velocity to generate adequate return energy. I was neither fast nor accurate back then, so theory did not meet reality in my backyard. At least the ball landed somewhere close to my make-believe pitcher's mound and not in the neighbor's yard.

I knew it was spring when the local newspaper began reporting the scores of spring training games. That was all I needed to get myself into mental shape for the upcoming summer baseball league hosted at the local junior-high playground just across the sand dune near my house.

It also meant that the new series of baseball cards were now available at the small grocery up the hill. It was only a nickel for a pack of five cards, if memory serves, plus a piece of industrial strength bubble gum that was an existential threat to the structural

integrity of my teeth.

That was 66-plus years ago and my pitching arm is even less capable today of both speed and accuracy, let alone the ability to throw more than three pitches before requiring physical therapy. Fortunately, the boyhood love of baseball remains, albeit in spectator-only mode.

My local minor league baseball team, the Fort Wayne TinCaps, just announced their 2021 schedule. This is a clarion call to a banquet of baseball sustenance for a famished fan, terribly undernourished after the cancellation of minor league baseball last year.

COVID has a lot to answer for, if I could just figure out whom to blame.

The TinCaps are the High Class A affiliate of the San Diego Padres. I'm not a Padres fan; my prejudice is to ignore any sports franchise that did not exist in 1959. I do respect the Padres organization for its policy of growing internally through talent development within its minor league system. Even though I pretend not to follow the Padres, I do watch for ex-TinCaps on the big-league roster.

How can a baseball fan not follow Fernando Tatis Jr.? He just signed a 14-year contract, locking him into a lifetime commitment to the Padres and an expectation of banking \$340 million over that time.

That's more than the annual budget of over 30 countries in the world although less than an hour's worth of profligate deficit spending in Washington D.C. It's all a matter of perspective, although certainly not any kind of perspective

understood by this retiree.

When my wife told our four-year-old grandson that the TinCaps would be playing soon, his response was, "Will Papa take me to the games?" He loves to go to the ballpark and actually watches an inning or two, wondering why he can't go down onto the field to play. Eventually the siren call of the concession stand and the kiddie playground entices him. I'll credit the TinCaps for understanding how to make the ballpark a family outing venue.

Maybe I am reverting to my childhood or perhaps I never grew up, Peter Pan style. Or could it be that baseball is so integral to American culture that it bridges ages, social classes, educational level and whatever else the cancel culture mob uses as a wedge to destroy our ethos as a united community? Several books have been written about father-son bonding when differences were pulling them apart. (For a humorous take on this, read "Are We Winning?" by Will Leitch.)

Meanwhile, I'm watching the last of the snow melt away and counting down to opening day, both for the majors and for the TinCaps. And, to an extent, reliving my younger years vicariously through today's professional players such as Tatis Jr.

I just hope I am still going to games in 14 years when Fernando cashes his last paycheck of that \$340 million.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICES

Asbury Country Church

On Sunday, March 21 at Asbury Country Church, Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the worship service is at 10:30 a.m. The worship leader and music leader will be Amy Bullick, and the piano will be by Kathy Staggs. The morning message will be, "Watch!" by Pastor Mike Bullick.

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ

Online services are available by visiting www.bachelorcreek.com.

Catholic Church Province of Indianapolis

According to Jennifer Simerman, secretary for communications for Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the following statement has been issued by the Catholic bishops of the Province of Indianapolis, which is comprised of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the dioceses of Gary, Lafayette, Fort Wayne-South Bend and Evansville: "While commanding our pastors and pastoral life coordinators who have gone to great lengths to assure safe worship spaces in our churches, given the continued increase of COVID-19 cases in our state, the Indiana bishops hereby extend the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation beyond Sunday, Nov. 1 until further notice. The Indiana bishops will continue to monitor the situation to determine when it might be advisable to modify or lift the dispensation." Specific liturgical directives and recommendations, as well as remote Mass participation and resource options, are available on the diocesan website at www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19.

Christ United Methodist Church

On Sunday, March 21 worship service at Christ United Methodist Church, 477 N. Wabash St., is at 10 a.m. Pastor Tom Richards' scripture reading will be Matthew 6:25-34 with a sermon reflection titled "Don't Worry." Worship service will also be live-streamed on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ChristUMCWabash/.

Christian Heritage Church

Streaming services online and broadcast on 95.9 FM.

College Corner Brethren Church

College Corner Brethren Church is now holding in-person services at 10:15 a.m. Sundays at 8996 S. 500 West, with Pastor Solomon David. The sermons are still on YouTube and Facebook.

Common Ground Prayer House

The Common Ground Prayer House will be open to the public from 8 to 10 a.m. Mondays, except holidays, at 78 W. Hill St. COVID-19 precautions will be taken in the form of masks being worn by prayer house representatives and social distancing. For more information, call Jennifer Mahan at 260-571-8063, Shirley Neale at 260-591-0047 or Debbie Sweet at 260-571-6072.

Dora Christian Church

At the Sunday, March 21 services at the Dora Christian Church in Lagro, the minister will be Mark Wisniewski, the song leader will be Olman Sanchez, the pianist will be Sherry Brock and the organist will be Kristy Good. We are still having two in-person mornings Sunday services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School classes for all ages from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Preacher Mark Wisniewski's message for this Sunday will be, "After God's Own Heart" from 1 Samuel 13:14. The Communion Table will be served by Chuck Marion and Brad Frieden. There will be a Children's Church provided for the 10:30 a.m. service, to be taught by Kelly and Lynnette Good. If you can't make it to the Live Services, Preacher Mark Wisniewski's sermon will be posted on the Dora Christian Church Facebook group Sunday morning for all to see.

LaFontaine Christian Church

The LaFontaine Christian Church pre-records the sermon which is then available for all to view at www.lafontainechristian.com under the sermons tab, stated Pastor Brad Wright.

LaFontaine United Methodist Church

Pastor Susan Shambaugh says that her LaFontaine United Methodist Church is live-streaming on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LaFontaine-United-Methodist-Church> and that it may be accessed as a video afterward.

Lincolnville United Methodist Church

Lincolnville United Methodist, 5848 E. 500 South, is going back to one worship service. The worship service is at 10 a.m., and Sunday school is at 9 a.m. There will be an Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 27 at the church.

Living Faith Lutheran Church

Welcome to our in-person worship service at 10:10 a.m. Sundays at Living Faith Lutheran Church, 242 S. Huntington St. Bible study and Sunday school are at 9 a.m. for all ages. The sanctuary is arranged for social distancing. Masks are encouraged and available. Online services are at 10:10 a.m., with pre-service music at 10 a.m. For virtual services and more information, visit www.livingfaithwabash.org.

Manchester Church of the Brethren

Pastor Kurt Borgmann from the Manchester Church of the Brethren stated they will hold a live-stream service at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday by visiting www.manchesterccb.net. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the black button that says, "Manchester CoB YouTube Channel." After the service is finished, one may access a video copy of the live-stream in the same way. Another way to access the live-stream or posted video: go to YouTube, search "Manchester Church of the Brethren," and click on the circle profile.

North Manchester Congregational Christian Church

Pastor Sebrena Cline stated live streaming begins on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sundays for the North Manchester Congregational Christian Church, and lasts 30 to 40 minutes.

North Manchester Missionary Church

The North Manchester Missionary Church is streaming live on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sunday. The video is then placed on their webpage, which can be viewed by visiting NMMC1.com.

Olive Branch Church of God

The Olive Branch Church of God live-streams Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Find it through Facebook, by searching Olive Branch Church, or by visiting www.facebook.com/myolivebranchchurch or through the church website www.olivebranch.church. Click "Live Streaming" at the top, then click the series icon (lion head).

Richvalley United Methodist Church

Worship at Richvalley United Methodist Church begins at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at 290 N. Jefferson St. At this time we are not having Sunday School. On Sunday, March 21, Pastor Jack Suits will speak on Ephesians 5:21-6:4, "Relationships – Part 3." For more information, call 260-563-1033 or email rvmc@hotmail.com.

Roann United Methodist Church

Pastor Wayne Balmer will have service in person at the church along with being online at 9 a.m. Sunday, March 21. The sermon will be taken from John 13:1-17 titled "Humility."

Southside Free Will Baptist

Streaming on their Facebook page.

Sweetwater Assembly of God

Streaming services online using the normal service schedule.

Urbana Yoke Parish

Rev. Larry Wade of the Urbana Yoke Parish stated that his congregation posts Sunday services to www.urbanayokeparish.com. Go to the menu line at the top of the page and select "Worship Videos." The most recent one will appear first. Sunday services are posted by noon every Tuesday.

Wabash Church of the Brethren

At the Wabash Church of the Brethren, Pastor Doug Veal is holding a Zoom meeting each Sunday for worship. The meeting is open at 10:15 a.m. so that everyone can be connected by 10:30 a.m. Join this church service by visiting <https://zoom.us/j/393263884> or by calling 312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID No. 393 263 884.

Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Welcome to Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 110 West Hill St. In-person worship is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings in the sanctuary or via live-stream for the church at home on the Wabash Christian YouTube Channel. Access is also available on our Facebook page and website wabashchristian.org. Stephen Eberhard is the Guest Preacher.

Wabash Church of the Nazarene

Pastor Kirk Johnson, of the Wabash Church of the Nazarene, stated their service is available on YouTube on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Find it by going to YouTube and search for "Wabash Nazarene" or search Facebook for the Wabash Church of the Nazarene. Another option is to visit www.wabashnaz.com, look for the home page, and find "Latest Sermon."

Wabash First Church of God

At the 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 21 worship service, Pastor Robb Rensberger will speak on "Find the Most Excellent Way." The sermon may also be seen on YouTube under Wabash 1st Church and heard at 11 a.m. Sunday on 105.9 FM. While in the church building, masks are optional but we do practice social distancing. Sunday servants are Pastor Robb Rensberger, chairperson; Sue White, worship; Rose Sands, piano; and Nancy Kolb, organ.

Walk By Faith Community Church

Pastor Greg Wilburn of Roann's Walk By Faith Community Church says to access his online sermons at www.walkbyfaithcommunitychurch.com.

Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash

Pastor Jerry Gauthier says that the Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash is streaming through their Facebook page at www.facebook/zionwabash at 10:30 a.m. Sundays.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

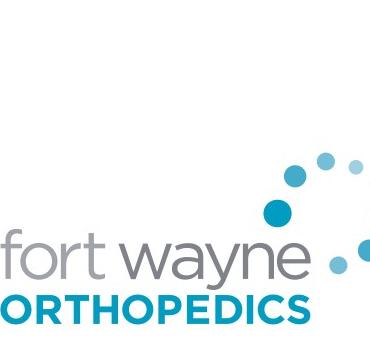


THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS HERE. IT'S TESTED, SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.

To see if you or someone you know is eligible, go to OurShot.IN.gov or call 211 to learn more.

 **IT'S OUR SHOT, HOOISERS**
COVID-19 VACCINE

Remember, we need to keep wearing masks and following other protective measures to keep everyone safe.



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1700 N. Alber St.

Wabash, IN 46992

(Inside the Lutheran Medical Building)

Biden, Harris offer solace to grieving Asian Americans

By JONATHAN LEMIRE,
JEFF AMY and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

ATLANTA — President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris offered solace to Asian Americans and a reeling nation on Friday as they visited Atlanta just days after a white gunman killed eight people, most of them Asian American women.

The visit, during a nationwide spike of anti-Asian violence, has added resonance with the presence of Harris, the first person of South Asian descent to hold national office. And it comes as Biden on Friday expressed support for the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, a bill that would strengthen the government's reporting and response to hate crimes and provide resources to Asian American communities.

Biden met Friday with Asian American state legislators and other community leaders before he and Harris delivered remarks.

"We're going to discuss the ongoing attacks against the community and how we move forward," Biden tweeted. "It's up to all of us to root out racism and give hate no safe harbor in America."

In recent months, schools in some states have been disregarding the CDC guidelines, using 3 feet as their standard. Studies of what happened in some of them helped sway the agency, said Greta Massetti, who leads the CDC's community interventions task force.

"We don't really have the evidence that 6 feet is required in order to maintain low spread," she said. Also, younger children are less likely to get seriously ill from the coronavirus and don't seem to spread it as much as adults do, and "that allows us that confidence that that 3 feet of physical distance is safe."

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said the revised recommendations are a "roadmap to help schools reopen safely, and remain open, for in-person instruction." She said in-person schooling gives students not only "the education they need to succeed" but access to crucial social and mental health services.

The new guidance:

“We’re going to discuss the ongoing attacks against the community and how we move forward. It’s up to all of us to root out racism and give hate no safe harbor in America.”

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

NEW YORK — Students can safely sit just 3 feet apart in the classroom as long as they wear masks but should be kept the usual 6 feet away from one another at sporting events, assemblies, lunch or chorus practice, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday in relaxing its COVID-19 guidelines.

The revised recommendations represent a turn away from the 6-foot standard that has sharply limited how many students some schools can accommodate. Some places have had to remove desks, stagger schedules and take other steps to keep children apart.

Three feet "gives school districts greater flexibility to have more students in for a prolonged period of time," said Kevin Quinn, director of maintenance and facilities at Mundelein High School in suburban Chicago.

In recent months, schools in some states have been disregarding the CDC guidelines, using 3 feet as their standard. Studies of what happened in some of them helped sway the agency, said Greta Massetti, who leads the CDC's community interventions task force.

"We don't really have the evidence that 6 feet is required in order to maintain low spread," she said. Also, younger children are less likely to get seriously ill from the coronavirus and don't seem to spread it as much as adults do, and "that allows us that confidence that that 3 feet of physical distance is safe."

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said the revised recommendations are a "roadmap to help schools reopen safely, and remain open, for in-person instruction." She said in-person schooling gives students not only "the education they need to succeed" but access to crucial social and mental health services.

The new guidance:

■ Removes recommendations for plastic shields or other barriers between desks. "We don't have a lot of evidence of their effectiveness" in preventing transmission, Massetti said.

■ Advises at least 3 feet of space between desks in elementary schools, even in towns and cities where community spread is high, so long as students and teachers wear masks and take other precautions.

■ Says spacing can also be 3 feet in middle and high schools, so long as there is not a high level of spread in the community. If there is, the distance should be at least 6 feet.

The CDC said 6 feet should still be maintained in common areas, such as school lobbies, and when masks can't be worn, such as when eating.

Also, students should be kept 6 feet apart in situations where there are a lot of people talking, cheering

and singing, all of which can expel droplets containing the coronavirus. That includes chorus practice, assemblies and sports events.

Teachers and other adults should continue to stay 6 feet from one another and from students, the CDC said.

The CDC's 6-foot advice for schools, issued last year, was the same standard applied to workplaces and other settings. In contrast, the World Health Organization suggested 1 meter — a little over 3 feet — was sufficient in schools. The American Academy of Pediatrics says desks should be 3 feet apart and "ideally" 6 feet.

The CDC guidance was problematic for many schools that traditionally had 25, 30 or more children per classroom in closely grouped desks. Some schools adopted complicated schedules. For example, half a class might come to school on some days, and the other half on other days.

Some schools stopped using lockers and staggered when different grades could



Getty Images

Students with protective masks sitting in school desks in their classroom. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday relaxed its COVID-19 guidelines for schools, saying students can sit 3 feet apart in the classroom as long as they wear masks.

or sing, all of which can expel droplets containing the coronavirus. That includes chorus practice, assemblies and sports events.

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The CDC guidance was problematic for many schools that traditionally had 25, 30 or more children per classroom in closely grouped desks. Some schools adopted complicated schedules. For example, half a class might come to school on some days, and the other half on other days.

Some schools stopped using lockers and staggered when different grades could

move between classes to avoid crowding in the halls, where maintaining any distance at all can be difficult.

The Ridley school system in suburban Philadelphia took steps like that to abide by the 6-foot guideline. But neighboring communities went with 3 feet, "and we're not seeing the data really reflect a different spread rate," said Lee Ann Wentzel, district superintendent.

Even before the CDC acted, the district had decided to shift to 3-foot distancing next month. Wentzel said the change in CDC guidance will make it easier to explain and defend the decision.

A recent study in Massachusetts looked at students and staff members in schools that used the 3-foot standard and those that had the 6-foot one. It found no significant difference in infection rates.

Massetti said other research has also been influential, including two studies the CDC released Friday. One out of Utah found low coronavirus transmission rates among students who did a good job

wearing masks and whose desks were only 3 feet apart. The other study, done in Missouri, pointed to a similar conclusion.

Still, the change at the CDC met with skepticism in some quarters.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, said the 1.6-million-member union is reviewing the latest research,

"but we are concerned this change has been driven by a lack of physical space rather than the hard science on aerosol exposure and transmission."

Dr. Lawrence Kleinman, a professor of pediatrics and global urban public health at Rutgers University in New Jersey, said 3 feet is "probably safe" if schools are doing everything right — if everyone is wearing masks correctly at all times and washing their hands, and if ventilation is good. But he said that's unlikely.

"I will not send my child to a school that's distancing at 3 feet," said Kleinman, who has a 4-year-old daughter.

MARCH MARKDOWN MANIA \$\$\$\$\$

2011 TOYOTA CAMRY

AUTOMATIC, A/C, 90,000 MILES



AT121A

\$9,900

2014 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT

FWD, 94,000 MILES



Z0210B

\$12,500

2018 FORD FUSION HYBRID SE

W/SYNC, A/C, XM, POWER SEAT, 72,000 MILES



AG113A

\$14,600

2018 CHEVROLET CRUZE LT

AUTO, A/C, REAR CAMERA, 37,000 MILES



AT104A

\$15,200

2014 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 4X4 LT

V8, 79,000 MILES



C083A

\$27,500

2017 JEEP COMPASS

HIGH ALTITUDE 4X4 W/ SUNROOF, 53,000 MILES



Z0213

\$16,900

2016 GMC ACADIA SLE

AWD, POWER LIFT GATE, 7 PASSENGER W/HEATED SEATS, 72,000 MILES



AC002A

\$19,990

2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 4X4 LT

ALL STAR, DOUBLE CAB, REAR CAMERA, FOG LAMPS, 14,000 MILES



Z0217

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LIFESTYLES

Add a little spring to your dinner plate

Spring is right around the corner, and while the weather might not look like it's received the memo in some areas, this recipe is a bit of spring inspiration that will surely lighten up your dinner plate no matter where you sit. It's a fresh and lovely pasta dish, bright with citrus and brimming with sweet and snappy peas, fresh herbs and baby arugula.

Lynda Balslev



The pasta in this recipe is orzo, which resembles rice, but is in fact made from semolina flour. It's toothsome and satisfying to eat, and the little morsels bind together this garden-fresh pasta salad. In this recipe the orzo is cooked and drained, and while still warm, tossed with the peas and aromatics to release their flavor. Fresh herbs and arugula are then added to lightly wilt and release their aroma. This is a delicious side dish or a light main course. Either way, it's guaranteed to bring a breath of fresh air to your kitchen table.

Pea and Orzo Salad

Active Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 25 minutes

Yield: Serves 3 to 4

12 ounces orzo pasta

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 cup defrosted frozen peas

1 garlic clove, minced

1 teaspoon lemon zest

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

1 handful baby arugula, about 1 cup packed

1/4 cup fresh mint leaves, chopped

1/4 cup fresh dill sprigs

2 tablespoons chopped chives

Grated Parmesan or crumbled feta cheese for garnish

Bring a large pot of salted water to a rolling boil. Add the orzo and cook until al dente, following package instructions. Drain the orzo and transfer to a large bowl.

Stir in the oil and lemon juice and then add the peas, garlic, lemon zest, salt, red pepper flakes and black pepper. Stir to combine and gently warm the peas. Add the arugula, mint, dill and chives and stir to gently wilt the arugula. If the pasta is too dry, add 1 more tablespoon oil and taste for seasoning. Serve garnished with the grated Parmesan or feta and freshly ground black pepper. Serve at room temperature or chilled.



Photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

The IRS has sent out 90 million stimulus payments – here's how to check when yours will arrive

The Internal Revenue Service told financial institutions to expect roughly 90 million direct

Michelle Singletary

deposits amounting to \$242.2 billion on March 17 in the initial distribution of the American Rescue Plan stimulus payments,

according to a banking industry group.

Following the deposits, the IRS mailed an additional 150,000 checks amounting to \$442 million, with a pay date of March 19, according to the Independent Community Bankers of America, based on a briefing from the IRS.

"Additional batches of payments will be sent in the coming weeks with the vast majority sent by direct deposit," the group said in an online update to banking members. "Payments will also be sent through the mail as a check or debit card."

The American Rescue Plan provides a third round of direct stimulus payments, up to \$1,400 for individuals, \$2,800 for couples, and an additional \$1,400 for each dependent regardless of age.

If you haven't received your deposit, here's some information that may help you figure out when your money will arrive and what to do if you get your funds on a prepaid debit card.

Why could some people get access to their money earlier than March 17?

The IRS announced that the settlement date for the initial wave of economic-impact payments by direct deposit would be March 17.

Some people have been upset that others have had access to the direct deposit before the March 17 date. But nothing nefarious is happening at those institutions that didn't make the money available sooner, according to Nacha, the organization that governs the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Network.

"Banks and credit unions

will make funds from direct deposits available to their customers by the same day that they receive the funds from the IRS," according to Mike Herd, senior vice president of ACH Network Administration at Nacha. "Banks and credit unions are not delaying the payments, nor are they earning interest on funds they don't have."

Nacha said in a statement that its rules require that banks and credit unions make the funds available to the account holders by 9 a.m. local time on the settlement date.

"It is up to the sender – in this case, the IRS – to decide when it wants the money to be made available," Nacha said in its statement. "This is literally the moment in time when the money will be transferred from the government to banks' and credit unions' settlement accounts at the Federal Reserve. There is no mystery where the money is from; the time the first payment file was transmitted on Friday, March 12, to when all recipients will have access to the money on Wednesday – it is still with the government."

How can I track my stimulus payment?

You can check the status of your stimulus pay-

ment by using the "Get My Payment" tool at [irs.gov](#), which is available in English and Spanish.

Federal benefit recipients

– such as those receiving

Social Security retire-

ment benefits, survivor or

disability benefits, Supple-

mental Security Income,

Railroad Retirement ben-

efits, or veterans benefits

– can also use the tool to

check their payment status.

Just be aware that some

people have reported trou-

ble accessing the tool. And

If you get locked out – you

get three attempts – you'll

have to wait 24 hours be-

fore trying again.

Why does the 'Get My

Payment' tool say 'Pay-

ment Status Not Avail-

able'?

The IRS says if you get

this message, either the

agency hasn't processed

your payment yet, it doesn't have enough information to issue a payment, or you're not eligible to receive the third-round economic-impact payment.

Why does the 'Get My Payment' tool give me a message that says 'Need More Information'?

It's likely that the IRS tried to mail a payment and it was undeliverable. If you get this message, you may be able to use the "Get My Payment" tool to enter bank account information, which will allow the agency to send you a payment via direct deposit.

However, only people who get this message can use the tool to provide their bank account information, the IRS said on an information page about using the "Get My Pay-

ment" tool.

I was eligible for the full

\$1,400 based on my 2020

return, but I only received

a partial direct deposit

payment. What should I

do?

The IRS may have used

your 2019 tax return. It's

possible, based on that re-

turn, you weren't entitled

to the maximum \$1,400

stimulus payment because

you earned too much.

For the third round of

payments, eligible indi-

viduals with an adjusted

gross income of \$75,000

or less are entitled to the

full \$1,400. The ceiling is

\$112,500 for individuals

filing as head of household

and \$150,000 for couples

filing jointly.

However, taxpayers will

not receive a third payment

if their adjusted gross

income exceeds \$80,000

if filing single or married

people filing separately,

\$120,000 if filing as head

of household, or \$160,000

if married and filing a

joint return, or if filing

as a qualifying widow or

widower.

Fortunately, the IRS said

it will be reviewing 2020

returns and, if a taxpayer

is entitled to more money,

the agency will adjust the

return and automatically

issue the remaining bal-

ance. So, additional

payments will be made as

the IRS continues process-

ing tax returns.

The IRS has until the end of the year to issue the 2021 economic impact payments. If for some reason you're eligible for the stimulus funds but still haven't received the money, you can claim it on your 2021 return when you file next year.

What should I do if I didn't get a direct deposit?

It's possible the IRS will

be mailing you a check or

a prepaid debit card with

your stimulus payment.

So, check your mail care-

fully. Many people in both

the first and second round

of stimulus payments

mistook the debit card for

junk mail.

The debit card is issued by

the Treasury Department's

financial agent, MetaBank.

How can I avoid paying

fees on the debit card?

To avoid fees, move the

money from the prepaid

debit card to your bank

account. MetaBank says

instructions for the most

recent debit card are com-

ing, but based on previous

rounds, you would have to

use the Money Network

Mobile App or go online to

eipcard.com to transfer the

stimulus payment.

You can also use the card

at an ATM, but to avoid

fees, you'll have to find a

machine that's "in-net-

work." It's similar to how

you can avoid an ATM fee

by using one operated by

your own financial institu-

tion. If you use a foreign

or "out-of-network" ma-

chine, you may be charged

two fees, one by MetaBank

and one by the operator of

the ATM. Be sure to click

the box to find a "sur-

charge-free" ATM.

Readers can write to Michelle Singletary c/o The Washington Post, 1301 K St., N.W., Wash-

Biden picks former senator who flew in space to lead NASA

By WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats who long blistered the Trump administration's hard-line immigration policies are suddenly in a tough political bind.

The Biden administration is responding to a wave of children crossing the southern border into the U.S. with some of the very tactics that evoked moral outrage from Democrats when former President Donald Trump embraced them. That includes accommodating children in hastily improvised lockups, spurring Republicans to argue that Democrats are now the ones throwing "kids in cages."

The moment leaves many Democrats with few good options. There's little appetite to condemn President Joe Biden in the same terms as Trump. Biden, after all, is pushing for a massive immigration overhaul that includes prized goals such as a pathway to citizenship for millions and has spoken of the need to treat those entering the U.S. with compassion.

But in taking a softer stance, Democrats and immigration advocates also risk being branded by the GOP as hypocrites.

"I have chosen to not allow myself to get into my feelings about how there are still these detention centers being popped up by this administration because it makes me very, very angry," said Amanda Elise Salas, a Democratic political operative in Texas' Rio Grande Valley who worked for Biden's presidential campaign.

Salas said that she understands "that change comes in increments" and that Democrats don't have enough congressional seats to make Biden's immigration agenda an immediate reality. But she added, "It doesn't make any sense how we aren't looking at this in a radical way."

Trump expanded and fortified border walls while championing "zero tolerance" policies that made it more difficult to seek U.S. asylum and briefly even separated immigrant parents and children.

Biden has used executive actions to begin rolling back much of that,

but a sweeping plan he announced his first day in office to remake the immigration system has stalled in

Nelson promised, if confirmed, to "help lead NASA into an exciting future of possibilities." The space agency is working to send astronauts back to the moon this decade and counting more than ever on private U.S. companies and even other countries to get that job – and others – done.

"Its workforce radiates optimism, ingenuity and a can-do spirit," Nelson said in a statement.

"The NASA team continues to achieve the seemingly impossible as we venture into the cosmos."

Nelson, 78, grew up near Cape Canaveral and was serving as a Democratic congressman when he launched aboard space shuttle Columbia on Jan. 12, 1986. His commander was Charles Bolden Jr., who later served as NASA administrator under President Barack Obama – at Nelson's urging.

Nelson, who has a law degree and is a former captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, served six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1979 to 1991. He was elected in 2000 to the Senate, where he served until his defeat in 2018 by former Florida Gov. Rick Scott.

'Very angry': Dems face tough choices on immigration

Congress. Instead, the Democratic-controlled House passed two smaller-scale bills Thursday that offer a process to obtain U.S. citizenship for immigrants brought to the country illegally as children and extend legal status to farm workers and their families.

Both initiatives won some GOP support, helping their chances in a Senate split 50-50. But Republicans have also signaled that they see continuing to hammer Biden on border issues as a winner heading into 2022's midterm elections.

The number of immigrants being stopped at the U.S. southern border surged to nearly 100,000 in February alone. Enough of those were children without their parents that the Biden administration has reopened a Trump administration facility in remote Carrizo Springs, Texas, to house them.

Officials are also planning to send more hundreds of miles north to converted space inside Dallas' convention center.

Biden defenders note that what's happening on the border now is not the same as during the Trump years. Their criticisms of the Trump administration focused on children separated from their parents and held in Border Patrol facilities featuring cells partitioned with chain-link fencing.

Further, the Biden administration continues to rapidly send back most single adults and families whom federal agents stop at the border under a public health order issued by Trump at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. It only is allowing teens and children on their own to stay – at least temporarily – which has helped cause their ranks to spike.

Still, such nuance is easily lost in the larger political fight. And Republicans, looking to hit back after Biden successfully delivered on his promised \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, have been quick to pounce.

"This is a human heartbreak," California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the top Republican in the House, said after touring a border facility in El Paso, Texas, this week. "This crisis is created by the presidential policies of this new administration."

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who is organizing his own border trip, said

the Biden administration, "in effect, issued an invitation for unaccompanied children to come to this country."

Democrats counter by alleging the actual hypocrisy is among Republicans, who are now feigning concern over immigrant children after years of cheering tougher Trump policies. They say part of the surge has been caused by immigrants who were stuck at the border waiting to advance legitimate asylum claims the Trump administration failed to process.

"They're having to pick up the pieces of a system in tatters because of Donald Trump," former Democratic presidential candidate Julián Castro said of the Biden administration.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has bristled at suggestions that the southern border is in crisis, and White House press secretary Jen Psaki has tried to avoid using the term.

Their efforts to counter Republicans' message has been complicated by Biden himself, however. He's discouraged men, women and children ready to head to the U.S. border from Mexico, Central America and elsewhere, with hopes of being allowed to more easily cross onto American soil.

"Don't leave your town or city or community," Biden said during a recent interview with ABC, pleading for more time as his administration works toward longer-term solutions at the border.

But that request runs counter to traditional patterns, which usually see the number of immigrants increase when temperatures rise.

"The reality is that people – including women and children – are forced to migrate and have been coming seasonally," said Marielena Hincapie, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center. "It isn't like they started coming now because Biden got elected. They come every year around this time, when the weather pattern changes."

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi noted Friday that "in the spring more people do come, so there will be more, as there are now." But she said the Biden administration has plans to ensure

immigrants are handled "in a much more humane way than before."

Hincapie applauded the Biden administration's use of Federal Emergency Management Agency officials to manage the influx of immigrants in more humane and healthy ways. For Salas, though, Biden's comments reflected a misunderstanding of life on the U.S.-Mexico border that encompasses most members of both parties.

"We're not focused on the right things," she said.

Indeed, the Biden administration has admitted struggling with sending mixed messages to immigrants.

"It is difficult at times to convey both hope in the future and the danger that is now," Roberta Jacobson, the Biden administration's coordinator for the southern border, said during a White House press briefing last week.

"We are trying to convey to everybody in the region that we will have legal processes for people in the future, and we're standing those up as soon as we can," Jacobson added. "But at the same time, you cannot come through irregular means. ... The majority of people will be sent out of the United States."

Amid intensifying Republican criticism, meanwhile, Biden has mostly avoided attacks from his party's progressive wing. One of its top public faces, New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, tweeted of reopening the Trump-era facility in Carrizo Springs, "This is not okay, never has been okay, never will be okay – no matter the administration or party."

But she also added that "our fraught, unjust immigration system will not transform" overnight.

Advocates who have championed Biden's larger immigration reform proposal also have largely refrained from criticizing the president for failing to get it passed. Instead, many are heartened with the smaller reforms advancing.

"There's not just one lever that you should push on, or an all-or-nothing legislative approach," said Peter Boogaard, a spokesperson for FWD.us, which advocates for immigrant rights. "And that doesn't mean that you don't need to continue to advocate for the broader approach."

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Roommate with benefits is attracted to man's friend

DEAR ABBY: I have this dilemma. I'm a woman in my 40s with a good job, and I'm told I am a good catch. About six months ago, I moved in with a man I will call Peter. It started as a roommate situation, but then became friends with benefits. We have both agreed we are not a couple.

The problem is Peter has a friend, "Reggie." I like Reggie, and he likes me. We have hung out as a group several times. To the best of my knowledge, Reggie has no idea Peter and I are FWBs.

Reggie recently asked me out to dinner as a date. I can see myself having a real relationship with him, but don't know how Peter will react. Should I accept the invitation? I mean, it's just one date. Also, should I mention it to Peter? — F.w.b. In The South

DEAR F.W.B.: You and Peter have agreed that you are NOT a couple. Accept Reggie's offer and be upfront with Peter about it. The only thing that might change would be that Peter will have to find another friend with benefits because the sexual aspect of your relationship with him may be over.

DEAR ABBY: I have a 22-year-old daughter from my first marriage and a 9-year-old son with my husband of 12 years. My husband is 57, and I just turned 41. I would like to have another baby, mainly because I want my 9-year-old son to have someone to grow up with. We have no other family. It's just him and girl cousins, ages 9 and 5. Can you please advise me if my husband and I are OK or too old to have one more child? — Considering It In The West

DEAR CONSIDERING: I'm glad you wrote. This is something that should be discussed further with your husband to make sure you are on the same page, and also with your OB-GYN.

If your intention is that your children grow up together, this is something that should have happened years ago. As it stands, the 10-year age difference will mean your son will be grown and gone while your younger child is still at home.

A doctor with a specialty in genetics could be helpful as you gather information. It is important that you understand what precautions might be wise to take before making this decision.

DEAR ABBY: I care a lot about what friends, family – even the general public – do with their money. Specifically, I promote the benefits of owning a home, but I suspect my efforts to educate them may need a more loving approach. I just don't want people I care about to throw their money away to their landlords. Do I need to be more loving and supportive vs. educating? — Community Helper In Michigan

DEAR HELPER: People usually have good reasons for renting instead of buying. If you keep repeating your advice and it's falling on deaf ears, it's fair to conclude your message isn't being appreciated. A saying widely attributed to Albert Einstein is, "Insanity is continuing to repeat an action over and over again but expecting different results." You can volunteer to serve as an adviser, but only if these individuals want to make a change and ask for your help.

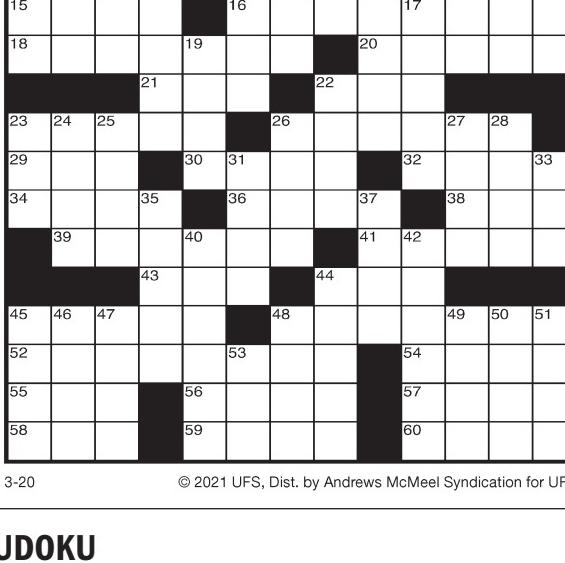
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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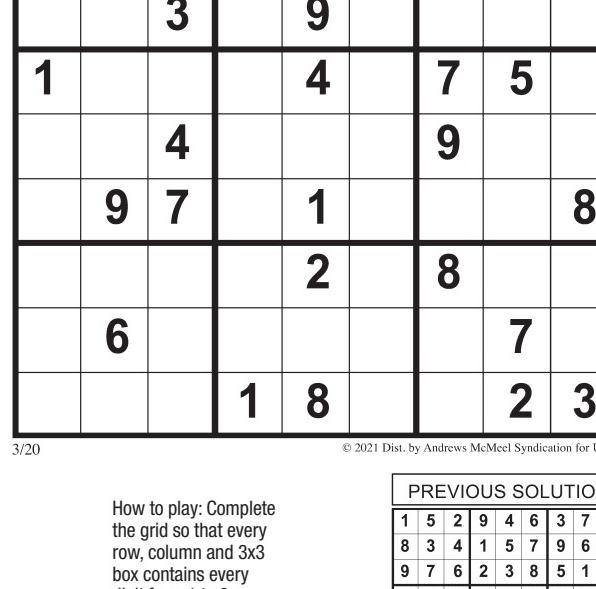
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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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2	8	9	3	6	1	4	5	7
4	6	7	5	8	2	1	9	3
7	2	8	4	1	5	6	3	9
3	4	1	6	7	9	8	2	5
6	9	5	8	2	3	7	4	1

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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(Answers Monday)

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Sports

A11

March 20-21, 2021

WabashPlainDealer.com



File photo by Scott Hunt / Chronicle-Tribune

Southwood's Carson Rich, left, and Jason Oprisek defend against Eastbrook's Jett Engle during the Knights' 68-60 win on Tuesday, Feb. 23 in Marion.

Southwood prepares for a boys basketball semi-state bout with Kouts

Saturday's game stands between Knights and a trip to Bankers Life Fieldhouse

By CLAY MAXFIELD

Frankfort Times Freelance Reporter

Southwood's boys basketball team is taking their second trip in three years to the semi-state finals on Saturday.

With just one game standing between the Knights and a trip to Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Southwood will first need to get past highly powered offense in No. 3 ranked Kouts High School.

Kouts, winners of their last 21 games, come into Saturday's matchup with a record of 28-2 after defeating Triton in the regional finals, 56-42, and routing Washington Township with a final of 67-53 in the sectional championship.

The Kouts Mustangs come into Saturday's game averaging 75.5 points on

offense, an element of their game that Southwood head coach John Burris believes his team will have to stymy to win.

"We're going to have to frustrate them," Burris said. "We're going to have to get them out of sync. ... They've got two sets of twins. The Wireman twins and the Kneifel twins. The one Wireman brother has scored 2000 points himself. They're going to be a lot to stop."

Southwood will look to put the defensive clamps on Cole Wireman who averages 26 ppg while his brother Cale Wireman compliments the team with nearly 17 points a game.

Defensively, Kouts holds opponents to 52.2 points a game.

The Knights will be led by Carson Rich, a senior point guard who averages 23 points but a game but has erupted in tournament play for two 40 point games and a 32 point average. Rich, who is shooting 64 percent from the

field through regionals is also over four steals a game.

Three other Knights including Alex Farr, Cole Winer, and Dawson Fillip aid Southwood's offense by combining for over 30 points a game.

On offense, Southwood averages 65.2 points a game while holding opposing teams to 53.4 on defense.

After winning 54-43 over Lafayette Central Catholic in the regional championship, Coach Burris believes that a consistent effort defensively and on the glass will be major factors in keeping their tourney run going.

"We need to lock them up. They're going to have to consistently be stopped and then rebounding. They're long kids and we gotta keep them off the boards. We need to get Carson Rich going too. If we can get him going, I think that will help the other guys," Burris said.

Clay Maxfield, Frankfort Times freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

Jackson named HCAC Newcomer of the Year

Miller also honored by HCAC on March 12

By DILLON BENDER

The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) announced its 2021 Women's Basketball All-Conference teams and award winners on Friday, March 12.

Both Tiara Jackson, from East Chicago and Central High School, and Macy Miller, from Huntertown and Carroll High School, were honored in this year's awards list.

Jackson was named the 2021 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Year. Additionally, Jackson also landed spots on the All-HCAC Second Team and the HCAC



Provided photos
Macy Miller earned Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors.



Tiara Jackson was named the 2021 HCAC Newcomer of the Year.

Jackson had grabbed seven or more rebounds in 14 of the 18 games she appeared in this year. She scored in double figures on 10 different occasions and racked up five double-doubles. Tiara also led Manchester and ranked second in the HCAC in blocked shots with 31.

Junior Macy Miller earned Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors. Miller ranked second on the team in scoring and rebounding, posting averages of 10.1 points per game and 6.1 rebounds per game.

Miller started all 16 games she played in this season. She scored in double figures eight times and grabbed seven or more rebounds six times. She also had two double-doubles this year.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.



Church Directory

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Gospel Light Assembly of God, 347 Southwood Drive. Pastor Neil Jeffrey. Sunday School 9:45am (all ages). Morning worship service 10:30am. Evening service 6pm. Wednesday midweek service 7pm; Kids' Korral Wednesday 7pm. Youth meeting 7pm (ages 12-19).

Sweetwater Assembly of God, 2551 SR 114 E, North Manchester. (260) 982-6179. Sunday worship 9am & 10:45am. Sunday evening outreach groups & youth ministry 5-7pm. Wednesday 6:30pm adult/teen bible study, 6:30pm Kidz Zone (K thru 6th grade). All worship services streaming online and on our Facebook page.

BAPTIST

Emmanuel Free Will Baptist, 129 Southwood Drive. Pastor Terry Hinds. (260) 563-3009. Sunday School 9:30am. Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm; Children's Church 10:30am. Wednesday morning prayer service 11am. Wednesday Prayer meeting 6pm. Transportation available. Sunday worship services streaming on our Facebook page

Southside Free Will Baptist, 360 Columbus Street. Pastor Tim Webb. Sunday School 10am. Worship Service 11am. Sunday Evening 6pm. Wednesday Evening 6pm. Sunday worship services streaming online

Wabash Free Will Baptist Church, 1056 Erie Street. Wednesday evening prayer meeting 6pm. Sunday School 10am, Church 11am; evening service 6pm.

CATHOLIC

St. Bernard Catholic Church, corner of Cass & Sinclair. Father Levi Nkwocha. Masses will resume, with safety restrictions, beginning May 23-24, 2020. Everyone attending Mass must wear a face mask. Masses: Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday at 8:15 a.m.

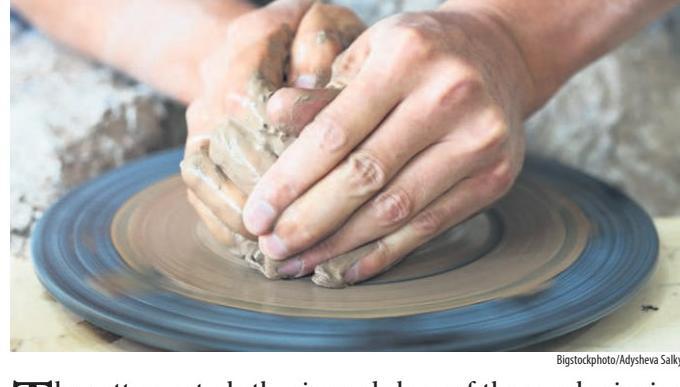
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Main Street in Lagro, Welcomes You Back! New Service Time 11:00 AM Sunday, October 4, Sunday November 1 and Sunday December 6. In keeping with COVID-19 State Rules, please wear a mask and socially distance. Let Us Worship Together.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christian Heritage Church, 2776 River Road. (260) 569-7710. Pastor Tim Prater. Sunday 8:30am. Radio Ministry 95.9 WKUZ. Sunday School 9:30am. Morning Service 10:30am. Sunday evening 6pm. Wednesday evening 6pm. Online services on Sunday at 10:30 am and Wednesday 6:00 pm



HAND OF THE POTTER



The potter controls the size and shape of the vessel spinning on the wheel; depending on the pressure of his fingers, the clay takes the form he chooses. At times God, the greatest potter, puzzles us. We do not understand how He shapes us in His own image and we question the form our life takes. Isaiah (64:8) trusted God's love... "Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Worship this week. Let God shape you into His image.

Daily Scripture Readings

Luke 20:1-26	Luke 22:1-38	Luke 22:39-71	Luke 23:1-25	Luke 23:26-49	Luke 23:50-56	Luke 24:1-12
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society | Daily Devotional at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org

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INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 4 miles north of Wabash on St. Rd. 15; phone 260-563-4109; website: bachelorcreek.com; Worship Minister - Michael Eaton, Student Minister - David Diener, Children's Minister - Tyler Leland, Middle School & Small Groups Minister - Nate Plyler, Next Steps & Outreach Minister - Ryan Keim, Women's Director- Taylor McFarland, Early Childhood Director - Janet Legesse. Worship 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

LUTHERAN

Living Faith Lutheran Church (NALC), 242 S. Huntington St., Wabash, IN. Worship begins each Sunday morning at 10:10 a.m. with Bible study classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship. Worship Services live streamed on our website. www.LivingFaithWabash.org

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1500 S Wabash Street. Pastor Dr. Kent Young. (260) 563-6626. We worship our Lord each Sunday at 9:30am with Gospel-based message and Holy Communion. There is a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following the service. We are handicap accessible and everyone is welcome at Trinity! tlcwabash@gmail.com.

UNITED METHODIST

North Manchester United Methodist Church, 306 E Second Street, North Manchester. Pastor Steve Bahrt. (260) 982-7537. Worship Service 8:15am & 10:30am. Coffee Fellowship 9am. Sunday School 9:30am.

Richvalley United Methodist Church, 290 N Jefferson. (260) 563-1033. Pastor Jack Suits. Worship service begins at 9:30am. Nursery available. Sunday School begins at 10:45am for all age.

Roann United Methodist Church, Corner of Adams and Arnold Street, Roann. Pastor Wayne Balmer. (765) 833-2931. Worship Celebration 9am. Sunday School 10:15am.



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